Fruit Farm at Cape Comorin.

53. **MR. K. T. THOMAS** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

(*i*) the total investment on the Fruit Farm at Cape Comorin ; and

(*ii*) the income therefrom and the expenditure in respect of the Fruit Farm during the last ten years ?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Secretary to Government*) : (*i*) The total investment on the Fruit Farm, Cape Comorn till the end of 1111 M. E. is Rs. 58,065.

(*ii*) The income and expenditure during the last ten years were:

Year.	*Income.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1102	106	4,332
1103	23	5,697
1104	74	6,146
1105	...	4,921
1106	208	3,254
1107	280	3,093
1108	502	2,349
1109	667	2,955
1110	706	3,347
1111	776	2,962

Economic Botanist in the Agricultural Department.

54. **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN** (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the work intended to be done by the Economic Botanist ; and

(*b*) his achievements till now ?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP : (*a*) The work intended to be done by the Economic Botanist is the improvement of the important economic crops of the State for better yield quality, disease resistance and other regional peculiarities.

(*b*) The Economic Botanist has been devoting a major part of his attention to the evolution of improved strains of paddy to suit the Nanjinad conditions. He has been able to evolve seeds suitable for cultivation in the alkaline soils of Nanjinad which occupy more than 10,000 acres.

Owing to strong winds there is great loss due to the shedding of grains in certain varieties of paddy cultivated in Nanjinad. A new variety known as T. E. B. 1 which will withstand such winds has been evolved by the Economic Botanist.

T. E. B. 2 in another variety which is alkali resistant and which gives higher yields than the Valsiramundan during the Kumbham season

T. E. B. 3 is a variety which grows well on alkaline soils and yields better than Samba during the Kanni season.

The local varieties of Samba, Kallansamba, Valsiramundan and Kottarvella have also been considerably improved by selection, with the result that they yield heavier than usual.

Varieties of paddy which can thrive on a smaller supply of water such

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